

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

One person, company, or entity should especially not have the power to influence the political process, without being required to give other candidates fair and equal time. In this case, Sinclair Broadcasting is attempting to leverage its power in the industry to avoid these requirements, favoring of his/its own interests above those of democracy and fair play.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.